

Talking about 'things' in Welsh

Siarad am wahanol 'bethau'

When you talk about 'things' or 'concepts' in English, we usually refer to them as 'it':

It's a fine day
It's a big house
It's a great idea

Welsh doesn't have an 'it' as in English, so we talk about them in a masculine or feminine way, depending on whether the 'thing' (or concept) we're talking about, is masculine or feminine

When we're talking about the weather in Welsh, for example, we use the feminine form '**hi**' (she or her) to refer to it:

It's a fine day = Mae hi'n ddiwrnod braf (you're literally saying 'She's' a fine day)

The word 'tŷ' ('house') in Welsh is masculine, so we use '**o**' (him or he) to refer to it:

It's a big house = Mae **o'n** dŷ mawr

The word 'syniad' (idea) is masculine, so again we use '**o**':

It's a great idea = Mae **o'n** syniad da

Numbers

Because we use feminine and masculine ways to describe things, sometimes we need different versions of the other words to go with them. This is true when we use numbers, but thankfully, only some of them have separate masculine and feminine forms.

Separate feminine forms exist only for the numbers 2, 3 and 4. All the other numbers (1, 5, 6... etc.) only have one form.

The number '2' has two forms, 'dau' and 'dwy'. 'Dau' is used with masculine words, and 'dwy' with feminine ones.

The forms for the number '3' are 'tri' and 'tair'. Again, 'tri' is used with masculine words and 'tair' with feminine words

The forms for the number '4' are 'pedwar' (masculine) and 'pedair' (feminine).

The word 'tŷ' (house) is masculine, so 'two houses' in Welsh is '**dau** dŷ'

The word 'hwyaden' (duck) is feminine, so 'two ducks' is '**dwy** hwyaden'

Likewise:

Three houses = '**tri** tŷ' (masculine) and Four houses = '**pedwar** tŷ' (masculine)

Three ducks = '**tair** hwyaden' (feminine) and four ducks = '**pedair** hwyaden' (feminine)

The only other slight change with numbers in Welsh is with 5 and 6, but this change has nothing to do with being masculine or feminine.

When the word 'pump' (5) and 'chwech' (6) appear immediately before nouns (names of things such as house, tree, hand, day, duck etc.), the final 'p' of pump and final 'ch' of 'chwech' are dropped:

Five ducks = **pum** hwyaden

Six ducks = **chwe** hwyaden

Simple!



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